

22. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the leach takes place in the temperature range of about 45 to 65°C.
23. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the ore or concentrate is leach at a grind or crush size of greater than P_{80} 75 μm .
24. A process according to claim 23, characterised in that the grind or crush size of greater than P_{80} 90 μm .
25. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the mixed bacterial culture comprises at least two of *Sulfobacillus thermosulfidooxidans*, *Thiobacillus caldus*, and *Thermobacillus ferrooxidans*.
26. A process according to claim 18, characterised in that the process of adaptation comprises addition of both a sample of the ore or concentrate and the mixed bacterial culture to a leach vessel, and leaching the resulting adaptation slurry until the level of targeted metal reporting to solution either reaches 100% or reaches a plateau.
27. A mixed bacterial culture for use in bacterial oxidation of sulphide ores and concentrates, characterised in that the mixed bacterial culture is not indigenous to the ore or concentrate to be oxidised, the mixed bacterial culture being able to oxidise the ore or concentrates across a range of leach temperature of about 40 to 65°C, and at a pH of between about 0.5 to 3.0.
28. A mixed bacterial culture according to claim 27, characterised in that the culture comprises at least two of *Sulfobacillus thermosulfidooxidans*, *Thiobacillus caldus*, and *Thermobacillus ferrooxidans*.
29. A mixed bacterial culture according to claim 27, characterised in that the mixed bacterial culture is able to oxidise chalcopyrite mineral ores and concentrates at grind or crush sizes equal to or greater than P_{80} 75 μm .